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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 10-12, 18, and 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,072,402 to Kniffin et al. (hereinafter "Kniffin").

Kniffin relates to a SECURE ENTRY SYTEM WITH RADIO COMMUNICATION and discloses an entry system 10 including a lock 12 with a receiver 14 integrated therein. A user who seeks access to the lock establishes communication to a clearinghouse 18. If the clearinghouse determines, by reference to a database 24, that the user should be authorized to access an identified lock, the clearinghouse causes a radio transmission to the lock 12 to be made. When the user arrives at the door, the user must be identified in the lock. In response to identification of the authorized user at the lock, a lock microprocessor CPU 30 instructs a lock mechanism 32 to unlock. See columns 2 and 3 of Kniffin.

As described above, Kniffin fails to teach or suggest the combination including "the central access control system wirelessly transmitting access information to the plurality of remote access control systems independent of any users associated with the access information making any requests for rights to unlock any of the doors" as required by amended claim 1. As described above, the clearinghouse of Kniffin causes the transmission after the user request rights to unlock a door, not independent of a user request. Thus, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7, 10-16, 26, and 27 depend from claim 1. Thus, these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 requires "the antenna is mounted to the outer portion of the housing and the remote wireless communicator and remote access controller are mounted to the inner portion of the housing." In the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103, this portion of the claim is not addressed by the Examiner.

Claim 6 requires "a local communication port adapted to provided wired communication with a portable device." In rejecting this claim under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner states that U.S. Patent No. 6,359,547 teaches a local communication port. However, the Examiner provides not suggestion or motivation for combining the teaching with the teaching of Kniffin. Therefore, the Examiner has failed to provide a case of *prima facie* obviousness.

Claims 7, 13-17, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kniffin and U.S. Patent No. 6,177,861 to MacLellen. In the rejection of claims 7, 13, and 22, the Examiner states Kniffin "teaches providing user-updated information to the remote access controller (col. 5, lines 52-55) but is not explicit in teaching how the update is initiated." (underlining added). However, Kniffin does explain that the user initiates the transfer of access information. As described above, a user who seeks access to the lock establishes communication with the clearinghouse. col. 2, lines 31-34. Then, the clearinghouse causes a transmission to the lock 12. col. 2, lines 44-46. Because of this perceived lack of teaching, the Examiner looked to MacLellen to fill in the perceived blanks in the teachings of Kniffin. This was unnecessary because Kniffin explicitly teaches that the user initiates the transfer of access information. Furthermore, the portions of MacLellen used to support the rejection discuss the transmission of sensor data from a remote Tag 105, not updates from a central control unit. Furthermore, the acknowledgement described the Examiner is for detecting the successful completion of data transmission. It does not appear to relate to the initiation of the transmission of updates from a central control unit to a remote unit. Because Kniffin does teach how the user updates are initiated and MacLellen fails to provide any motivation for a remote access control system initiating the transfer of user data to the remote access control system by a central access control system, the proposed combination is unnecessary to fill in the perceived blanks of Kniffin because the blanks do not exist and even if made, still fails to teach the claimed inventions.

In rejecting claims 14 and 17, the Examiner states that Kniffin "is silent not explicit [sic] in teaching a plurality of central wireless communicators connected to the central controller." However, Kniffin does explain that the clearinghouse 18 causes a radio transmission by a system 26 such as a paging system or a cellular telephone system. See col. 2, lines 45-51. Presumably, such paging systems or cellular telephone systems are already adapted to avoid the interference problems suggested by the Examiner as being solved by MacLellan. Because Kniffin does teach how it communicates and because these communication systems do not appear to have issues with interference, the Examiner has failed to establish a case of *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Kniffin alone fails to teach or suggest the combination including "a central access control system having a central access controller and a plurality of wireless communicators electrically coupled to the central access controller..." as required by claim 18. Removal of the rejection of claim 18 is respectfully requested. Claims 19-26 depend from claim 18. Allowance of claims 18-26 is respectfully requested.

Cancelled and New Claims

Claims 8, 9 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice and without disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein. New claims 27-29 have been added. Claims 27 and 28 depend from claim 1. New claim 29 is an independent claim.

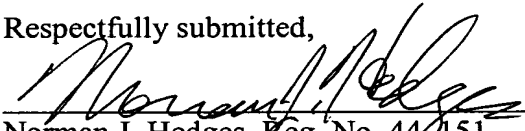
Final Remarks

Claims 1-7, 10-16, and 18-29 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If necessary, please consider this a Petition for Extension of Time to effect a timely response. Please charge any additional fees or credits to the account of Baker & Daniels LLP Deposit Account No. 02-0390.

In the event that there are any questions related to these amendments or to the application in general, the undersigned would appreciate the opportunity to address those questions directly in a telephone interview to expedite the prosecution of this application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,



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